



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Application of: Rickey D. Hart et al.
Serial No.: 09/875,588
Filing Date: 06/06/01
Title: SURGICAL FASTENING SYSTEM
Group Art Unit: 3731
Examiner: Julian W. Woo
Attorney's Docket No.: INNO-15 CON 3

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PETITION FOR AUTOMATIC EXTENSION OF TIME TO RESPOND

Applicants hereby petition for a two (2) month extension of time to respond to the outstanding OFFICIAL ACTION mailed December 17, 2004 with respect to the above-identified patent application, thereby extending the time for response from March 17, 2005 to May 17, 2005.

A check in the amount of \$ 450.00 is enclosed to cover the cost of the petition fee. This petition fee has been calculated on the basis of a Large Entity status.

In the event that any additional fees may be required to be paid in connection with this matter, please charge the same, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0221. A duplicate copy of this Petition is enclosed for the convenience of the Office.

Thank you.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL, POSTAGE PREPAID, IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, PO BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, ON:

May 17, 2005

(DATE OF DEPOSIT)

Scott R. Foster

(NAME OF ATTORNEY)

(Signature)

May 17, 2005

(DATE OF SIGNATURE)

Respectfully submitted,

(Signature)

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